

APRIL 2004

NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

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The Troopers of the Northern Command had a productive month of accident reduction efforts during April 2004. The total number of crashes decreased by over 14% compared to the previous year and by over 15% compared to the previous month. The majority of the decrease is credited to a significant reduction in crashes in the vicinity of the IR80/IR580 interchange, and particularly during the morning commute hours. Concentrated enforcement activities by motorcycle Troopers took place during the same time frame. The number of crashes investigated in the interchange during the morning commute was reduced by nearly half from the number investigated the previous month. The number of crashes investigated in other areas remained approximately constant with the number from the previous months. All these reduction efforts were accomplished in an area heavily impacted by a construction project and in a community with a steady population increase rate of approximately 3.5%.

Enforcement activity during the month was consistent with the level of enforcement activity reported last month. It is noteworthy that only 3 crashes resulted in charges of driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance. In addition, proactive DUI arrests increased by 7 over last month. Occupant restraint (seatbelt) enforcement increased substantially over last month (57.4%) and increased by 7.2% over the same period last year.

Commercial enforcement activity showed some increases and some decreases over the past month. The greatest gains were achieved in weight enforcement, primarily due to the return to serviceable status of scales. The number of trucks weighed increased by 75.6% from last month and by 343.4% over last year. Increases were also recorded in vehicles and drivers placed out of service for safety violations.

Total staffing hours remained constant as compared to last month, but decreased by approximately 10% from the same period last year. The Troopers of the Northern Command continue to have success in the mitigation of traffic accidents despite the limitations of staffing coupled with steady population and traffic increases.

NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	April 2004		April 2003	% Change		March 2004	% Change
Total Crashes	273		318	-14.2%		323	-15.5%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	177		202	-12.4%		213	-16.9%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	92		113	-18.6%		107	-14.0%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	4		3	33.3%		3	33.3%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	3		12	-75%		17	-82.4%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	5		4	25%		3	66.7%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		1	0%		0	100%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0%		1	-100%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		1	0%		0	100%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	1		2	-50%		0	100%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	2		0	200%		2	0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	10		6	66.7%		6	66.7%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	7		6	16.7%		3	133.3%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	3		0	300%		3	0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0%		0	0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.5%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 1.1%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 33.3%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 3.7%

Note: The Northern Command had a drastic reduction in the number of DUI involved crashes this month compared to last month and last year. The number of DUI involved crashes dropped from 17 last month to only 3 this month.

Crash Analysis:

Reno Urban

In the Reno Urban area there was a large decrease in total crashes. The motor squad staffed 5 of the 6 motors for the month of April, concentrating their efforts in the Spaghetti Bowl area of IR80 and IR 580. The motors squad showed a great presence within the Spaghetti Bowl area and produced 337 speeding and 129 hazardous moving citations. Within the motor squads work hours, the total number of accident dropped from 53 (March 2004) to 29 this month. The Reno urban area had a decrease in property crashes and injury crashes when compared to last month. The area had no fatal accidents, which was a decrease compared to last month and the same as April 2003. There was a sharp reduction in DUI involved crashes dropping from 9 last month to only 2 this month.

Looking at the whole crash picture for Reno Urban Traffic, it is showing that the majority of the crashes are occurring during commuter hours and during weekdays. Once again, the majority of the injury crashes occurred during the swing shift commute (4:00pm through 6:00 pm). Out of the total 45 injury crashes for the Reno Urban area, 63% of the injury crashes were claimed injury. Claimed injury means; no visually apparent injuries observed by the investigating trooper, however, the citizen claimed that they are hurt. Reno Urban has concentrated enforcement efforts on the central area of Reno where the crashes have been occurring and during the high crash times. The reduction of total crashes shows the effort made in this area. The construction zone continues to contribute an additional percentage of crashes within the Spaghetti Bowl area for both morning and afternoon commutes.

Carson / Tahoe / Minden

Total crashes decreased slightly over last month, from 89 to 87, or 2.2%. Property crashes dropped 9.7%, while injury crashes increased by 3.7%. Fatal crashes increased from 0 to 3. Two of the three fatal accidents involved persons who were not required to wear a seatbelt (1 pedestrian and 1 motorcycle driver), and the third person did not wear his seatbelt. Total crashes increased by 19.2% over the same period last year. A very positive indicator was that there were no DUI crashes for the entire month. When compared to last year there were some increases in crashes. Total crashes rose by 19.2%. Property crashes rose by 36.6%. Injury crashes declined by 12.5%. There were no weather related crashes this month.

Fernley / Fallon

Compared to last month total crashes increased from 39 to 45, or 15.4%. Property damage crashes decreased from 27 to 25, or 7.4%. Injury crashes were increased from 10 to 19, or 90%. Fatal crashes decreased from 2 to 1, or 50%. There was however, a decrease in all crash categories this month compared to this month last year. Total crashes decreased from 53 to 45, or 15.1%. Property crashes were reduced from 29 to 25, or 13.8%. Injury crashes were reduced from 21 to 19, or 9.5%. Fatal crashes were reduced from 3 to 1, or 66.7%. There was also a sharp decrease in the number of DUI involved crashes this month compared to last month dropping from 5 to only 1.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	April 2004		April 2003	% Change		March 2004	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	3		12	-75%		17	-82.4%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	78		121	-35.5%		71	9.9%
Other Arrests	342		641	-46.6%		431	-20.6%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	169		188	-10.1%		208	-18.8%
Speed violations	2194		2298	-4.5%		2115	3.7%
Hazardous moving violations	642		1053	-39.0%		660	-2.7%
Occupant restraint violations * ##	614		573	7.2%		390	57.4%
Total violations [above violations included]	4818		6107	-21.1%		4827	-0.2%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violatons - citations/arrests	11		52	-78.8%		10	10%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	38		61	-37.7%		22	72.7%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	563		552	2.0%		757	-25.6%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only							
Total safety violations -- citation	262		339	-22.7%		320	-18.1%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1302		751	73.4%		1607	-19%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	112		75	49.3%		94	19.1%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	31		27	14.8%		28	10.7%
Total school buses inspected	109		137	-20.4%		151	-27.8%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	25		13	92.3%		39	-35.9%
Total trucks weighed	980		221	343.4%		558	75.6%
Total overweight citations	47		21	123.8%		53	-11.3%
Total dyed fuel inspections	434		374	16.0%		607	-28.5%
Total dyed fuel citations	4		2	100%		2	100%

* Seat belt and child restraint

Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

Note: The Northern Command had a drastic reduction in the number of DUI involved crashes this month compared to last month and last year. The number of DUI involved crashes dropped from 17 last month to only 3 this month.

Field Enforcement Analysis:

Reno Urban

The Reno Urban area had a slight increase in total violations compared to last month with fewer troopers working the road. The area had a sharp decrease in DUI arrest from crashes compared to last month and there was an increase of DUI arrest prior to crashes.

Carson / Tahoe / Minden

Enforcement efforts remain mixed. Total arrests dropped over last month and last year. Total persons arrested also dropped significantly. Total violations cited increased slightly over last month, due to an aggressive seatbelt enforcement campaign. Seatbelt violations increased by 161, or 101.3%. Speed violations decreased by 16.6%, and Hazardous violations dropped by 5.8%. The loss of 8.3% man-hours does explain some of the decline in key areas.

Fernley / Fallon

The enforcement efforts of the district dropped compared to last month and increased over last year. Total enforcement decreased from 1367 to 1283, or 6.2% compared to last month with a drop of 1.1% in total time worked but increased total enforcement by 18.9% compared to last year. DUI arrests prior to crashes are up 75% compared to both last month and last year. This desired increase could be the a result of the reduction in arrests from crashes which decreased 66.7% compared to last year and 80% compared to last month. Verbal warnings decreased from 546 in March to 452 in April. Traffic stops dropped from 1673 in March to 1460 in April even with on view patrol increasing a total of six hours in April. Motorist assists also decreased from 233 in March to 188 in April.

Commercial Enforcement

Hazardous moving violations are up by 10% over last month's activity. Eleven citations were issued in the month of April compared to the ten citations issued last month. Other Traffic Violations also increased by 72.7% over last month's activity. Last month, 22 citations were issued compared to 38 for the month of April.

Overweight citations increased by 123.8% from last year's achievements and decreased by 11.3% over last month's figures. There were a total of 47 citations issued for violations of weight laws in the month of April. There were 53 citations issued in the month a March and a total of 21 citations issued in April of 2003.

There were 109 school buses inspected this month. This is a 27.8% decrease over last month's activity of 151 buses inspected. Total school buses placed "out of service" for the month of April was 25 buses. This is a 92.3% increase over last years activity of 13 buses placed "out of service" and a decrease over last months activity by 13.8%. To date Commercial Enforcement has inspected 680 buses for the State Program goals.

STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

	Total Authorized positions		Current positions staffed		Vacancy Rate	
STAFFING	April 2004	April 2003	Administrative Assignment	Field Operations	Positions Vacant	Vacancy Rate Percentage
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	89	78	18	70	1	1.1%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	18	19	1	16	1	5.6%
Commercial CVSI	3	3	0	3	0	0.0%
BELOW WORK HOURS ARE FIELD OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ONLY						
WORK HOURS LOST	April 2004		April 2003	% Change	March 2004	% Change
Annual leave	914.3		874	4.6%	517.65	76.6%
Compensatory leave	559.93		575.35	-2.7%	471.5	18.8%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	720.78		965.35	-25.3%	844.75	-14.7%
Military leave	120.0		320	-62.5%	40	200%
Holiday off	0		0	0%	0	0%
Training	1010.61		1192.8	-15.3%	1465.74	-31.1%
Administrative leave	21		184	-88.6%	18	16.7%
Leave without pay	0		0	0%	0	0%
Total work hours lost	3346.62		4111.5	-18.6%	3357.74	-0.3%
OVERTIME	April 2004		April 2003	% Change	March 2004	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	989.68		1165.5	-15.1%	994.46	-0.5%
Compensatory overtime claimed	154.17		256.25	-39.8%	163.56	-5.7%
Total overtime hours	1143.85		1421.75	-19.5%	1158.02	-1.2%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	April 2004		April 2003	% Change	March 2004	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	15397		17300	-11%	15397	0%
Work hours lost	3346.62		4111.5	-18.6%	3357.74	-0.3%
Overtime	1143.85		1421.75	-19.5%	1158.02	-1.2%
Total hours worked	13194.23		14610.25	-9.7%	13197.28	-0.02%

* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

Note: During the three reporting periods listed on this report the process used to complete staffing calculations has changed. The above information has been adjusted to reflect the method currently used. Only Troopers and Sergeants that actually work in field assignments are used to calculate "Total Hours Worked" staffing times.

Staffing and Work Hours Analysis:**Reno Urban**

The staffing level dropped by one trooper position compared to last month. Reno Urban continues to have several troopers not working the road due to their assignments in background investigations, military leave and administrative duties. Annual leave was up as compared to last month. The usage of sick leave decreased by 50.3%. Overtime showed a decrease compared to last month and last year.

Carson / Tahoe / Minden

Total hours worked dropped by 8.3%. There were increases in Annual Leave, Sick Leave, Military Leave and Compensatory Leave over last month. The total man-hours lost increased. Overtime also increased by 65%.

Fernley / Fallon

The staffing for the district remains the same. One of the district troopers remains assigned to assist the background investigation unit. Total work hours lost decreased by 6.6% this month. Overtime decreased by 20.5%. Total hours worked decreased by 1.1% compared last month.

Commercial Enforcement

Annual leave increased this month as compared to last month. Compensatory time increased by 67.9% as 212.75 hours were used this month as compared to 126.75 hours used last month. This is due to "Spring Break" from schools and Troopers using their annual time or compensatory time off for this time period. Sick leave decreased by 31.3% as compared to last month. Training decreased by 30% with 243.25 hours being used for this period as compared to 351.67 hours used for last month. Commercial Enforcement continues to have one vacancy. Total overtime hours increased over last month.

RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT

ACCIDENT RATIOS		April 2004
Ratio of crashes per Traffic position		
Total		3.9
Property		2.53
Injury		1.31
Fatal		0.06
DUI		0.04
Commercial vehicle		0.14
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash		1.25
without seatbelts		0.25
with seatbelts		0.50

FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Ratio of enforcement per Traffic position		
DUI arrests from crashes		0.04
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes		1.11
Other Arrests		4.89
Total persons arrested (DUI included)		2.41
Speed violations		31.34
Hazardous moving violations		9.17
Occupant restraint violations		8.77
Total violations		68.83

RATIOS – COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

April 2004

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	*	0.7
Other traffic violations - citations	*	2.4
Total safety inspections [all levels]		29.6
Terminal inspections TIP		0.0
Total safety violations -- citation	*	16.4
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.5
Total safety violations -- repair order		68.5
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		2.3
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		5.9
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection		0.2
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		1.6
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection		0.1
Total school buses inspected		5.7
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		1.3
Total trucks weighed	*	61.3
Total overweight citations	*	2.9
Total dyed fuel inspections	*	27.1
Total dyed fuel citations	*	0.3

* Commercial sworn only

COMMUNICATIONS

Preparations are being made to install the new MACOM radio consoles in dispatch. Screen designs and configurations are in place and work is expected to begin the second week of May. The new consoles will allow the dispatchers to have priority status and enable them to track and respond to emergency radio activations.

Minor upgrades to the CAD system continue with the addition of special assignment beats. This will enable the dispatcher to keep better track of units assigned to special events.

A new test has been developed for NCIC/NCJIS recertification requirements. Testing for all Highway Patrol personnel will begin next month.

Staffing:

The 3 vacant positions remained available through the month of April, however, a completed list of qualified applicants was received from personnel and the process has begun to fill the positions. A test has been developed to pre-screen qualified applicants for the necessary clerical and multi-tasking skills needed to function as a public safety dispatcher. Testing of qualified applicants is scheduled for May 5, 2004. Interviews for the open PSD IV position are scheduled for May 7, 2004. Three qualified applicants will be interviewed at that time.

Training:

Captain Sandage and Adrienne Abbott conducted training for the Amber Alert process and policy was put in place to ensure that proper notification and procedures were followed. A check-off sheet was placed in each of the E.A.S. books in the dispatcher center which included names and phone numbers of all command staff, Department of Transportation, media and other required contacts.

Other:

The dispatch center celebrated National Telecommunicators Appreciation Week from April 12 – April 16. This was a tremendous success of all of the dispatchers participating and showing their appreciation for one another. During this week we had an open house, in which, participants from many allied agencies including Parole and Probation and command staff came by to thank the dispatchers.

Congratulations to Debbie Wenzel who was selected Dispatcher of the Quarter.

Upcoming:

Plans continue for the Department of Emergency Management facility in Carson City.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The month of April provided plenty of activity for the public relations coordinator office. In addition to the 5 daily radio traffic reports, the weekly radio show named "Trooper Talk". Topics covered include the new child restraint law, reporting a suspected drunken driver, yielding to a stopped emergency vehicle, and duties of citizens during traffic accidents. We also participated in teen awareness week at the DaMonte Ranch High School and provided a visual and educational DUI presentation. The presentation included a staged 2 car fatal accident which included a code 3 response from REMSA and the Reno Fire Department. Commendation awards signed by the Director's office were given to Reno Auto Wrecking and National Towing, these two local companies greatly helped facilitate this event.

Division personnel also participated at a career day at Caughlin Ranch Elementary School, the 5th annual Children's Safety Fair, and volunteered their time in uniform at the Claim Jumper Restaurant to support Special Olympics by raising funds at the annual Tip-A-Cop night. Media activity for the month yielded 9 press releases, 9 television interviews, 2 radio station interviews, and 7 print articles. Our largest covered media event was the joint "Zero Tolerance" campaign with CHP which focused on speed enforcement on Interstate 80, this program was on April 28th. This joint operation, which was given to the media in advance, provided an abundance of positive media coverage to both entities. Lastly, there were 2 drivers education classes taught to the area high schools.

AIRCRAFT

Below is a comparative summary of N111HP flight activities in the Northern and Central commands for the month of April, 2004.

Total hours flown:	This Month	Last Month	Change	Last Year	Change
Time Over Sites.....	14.1	23.5	- 40 %	17.8	- 21
Time Enroute to Sites.....	5.9	8.6	- 31 %	5.1	+16 %
Prisoner Transports	-	(5) 17.3	- 100 %	(2) 16.5	-100 %
Prisoner Extradition.....	-	-	-	-	-
Personnel Transports	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance.....	.8	1.6	- 50 %	-	+ 100 %
Pilot Training.....	-	2.5	- 100 %	3.4	- 100 %
Observer Training.....	-	-	-	-	-
Misc..(Assist NDI).....	1.4	-	+ 100 %		+ 100 %
Total:	22.2	53.5	- 59 %	42.8	- 48 %
 Enforcement missions flown:	 5	 9	 - 44 %	 7	 - 29 %
 Total enforcement activity:	 179	 326	 - 45 %	 277	 - 39 %
 Activity per flight hour:	 12.7	 13.9	 - 9 %	 15.6	 - 19 %

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Fernley / Fallon

Burning man meetings for the event scheduled in late August. Meetings scheduled twice a month until the event. Two meetings attended up to this. Operations plan draft completed and returned for additional information.

Office of Traffic Safety Grants involving seatbelt enforcement planed and DUI enforcement. Special enforcement detail plan development for enforcement activities in the summer recreational areas.

Carson / Tahoe / Minden

Law Enforcement Memorial
Memorial Day Weekend
Lake Tahoe Area Bicycle Ride

Commercial Enforcement

Increase in check site weighing activities.
Peace Officers Memorial, Washington D.C., May 10 to the 15th, 2004.
72 hour check site – June 8, 9, and 10th in Elko, NV.
Operation Air-Break – May 6, 2004

PLANS:

Reno Urban

Aggressive “Bowl Patrol” will continue during commuter times. As always, traffic stops in the bowl area during these times will be encouraged to be moved off the freeway to prevent accident from passing motorist. While on the “Bowl Patrol” Troopers will strive for visibility. We are at full strength with six motorcycle units on special squads. Three will be on Day shift and three will work on an early swing shift. Their priority will be enforcement and responding to crashes in the bowl area and the construction zones during high commute times. This will hopefully relieve the car units to work outside the parameter of the core area to step up the enforcement in these areas.

Fernley / Fallon

Burning man operations plans and contact negotiations. Lovelock staffing study comparing crash analysis versus work schedule s in the area. The Yerington staffing study to determine the best utilization of available personnel in that area.

Carson / Tahoe / Minden

Continued ADAPT enforcement on day shift and swing shift. Increased patrol motor presence and enforcement in the Lakeview Hill construction zone. Day Shift will concentrate enforcement efforts on Beat 10, where 66% of April’s crashes occurred. Swing shift will concentrate enforcement efforts on Beat 9, where 44% of April’s crashes occurred.